

Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend

Marriage Preparation Program



2021 Dates ***Webinars for Engaged Couples***

January 15 & 16
March 12 & 13
May 7 & 8
August 20 & 21
October 22 & 23

Congratulations on your engagement! The vocation of married love is a beautiful and challenging one that deserves special preparation. Your marriage will not only transform your own futures, but it will also have lasting effects on many others and on succeeding generations. As Pope Saint John Paul II would often say, “The future of humanity passes by way of the family.”

Diocesan Guidelines

The initial process begins at the parish and involves paperwork, such as producing affidavits of freedom to marry from parents or others close to the couple as well as baptismal certificates issued within the last six months. An engaged couple must also complete a questionnaire, often called a premarital inventory, which helps a priest or pastoral minister to identify areas of disagreement that require further discussion.

Engaged couples who are not participating in the new *Two by Two* marriage preparation program are expected to attend one of the *Webinars for Engaged Couples*, which may be followed by

one or more sessions with a priest, pastoral minister or mentor couple at your parish.

Webinars for Engaged Couples

Each diocesan webinar for engaged couples consists of three sessions which take place over Zoom. The topics covered include the three essential characteristics of married love; communication and intimacy in marriage; an introduction to Pope St. John Paul II’s theology of the body; sex as the “body language” of married love; the meaning of responsible parenthood and an introduction to natural family planning; building a strong partnership as spouses, the spirituality of Christian marriage; and the Christian family as the “church of the home.” While the webinar is particularly geared to Catholic engaged couples, all engaged couples are welcome. There is no cost for the webinar.

Webinars for Engaged Couples (in English) will take place five times in 2021. The first session of the webinar takes place on Friday evening from 7 PM to 9 PM, while the second and third sessions take place on Saturday from 10 AM to 12 PM and from 2 PM to 4 PM. We also have created a special website for couples who participate in the webinar with additional materials on the topics covered as well as links to the assignments which couple are expected to complete together after each session of the webinar. The website is available at www.engagedresources.weebly.com

Please register ONLINE at least a week in advance of the date of the webinar you desire to attend at www.diocesefwsb.org/Marriage-Preparation. You will receive a confirmation email upon registration. For more information, please call (574) 234-0687.

May God bless you as you prepare together for a lifetime of married love!

Lisa Everett

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